MONTANA ROUNDABOUT

opi.mt.gov

10 Years of the Montana GDL
Graduated Driver Licensing Works

Many know that Montana was the last state in the country to adopt Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) to give teen drivers time to develop crucial driving skills and experience. But did you know that it took four consecutive legislative sessions before it became law? Starting in 1999, then in 2001, 2003 (when it passed, but was vetoed by Gov. Judy Martz), and finally in 2005 the bill passed and was signed into law by Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

So, we tip our collective hats to GDL champion Sen. Kim Gillan (D-Billings) who served in the Montana State Legislature from 1996 to 2012, and steadfastly introduced every GDL bill. Thanks to her efforts and the support of numerous organizations and individuals, state law now requires young drivers to gain driving skills with supervised practice before they enter the high-risk period of solo driving. Ten years after GDL went into effect, there is a marked decrease in teen crash fatalities and injuries, as shown by the chart below and a chart on page 2 showing crash data by age.

Implemented in 2006, Montana's GDL has led to a 35% decrease in total teen crashes and a 59% decrease in serious injuries of 14-18 year olds during the period of 2005-2014.* Integrating driver education and parent-supervised practice helps teens develop driving skills, safe habits and crucial behind-the-wheel experience. While the number of teen crashes has declined, some mistakes continue to have serious and fatal consequences, especially driving off the road and not wearing seat belts.

Distracted driving education was also added as a component of Montana's GDL, with the recognition that there are many things that shift our focus away from driving, along with using cell phones and other hand-held devices. The OPI's Traffic Education Office provides resources for distracted driving awareness and includes distracted driving curriculum and other educational materials for use in the classroom.

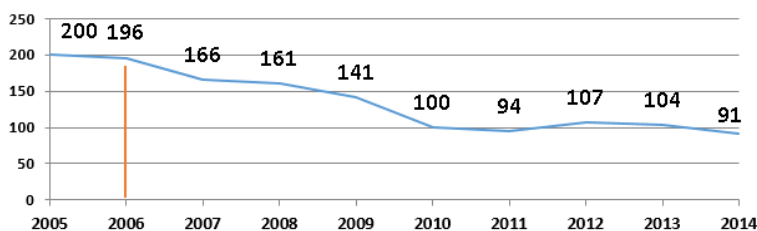### THE LAW: Montana's GDL went into effect on July 1, 2006

The purpose of Montana's GDL is to "create a graduated driver's licensing program that will allow persons under 18 years of age to progressively develop and improve their driving skills in the safest possible environment and that will improve highway safety by reducing the disproportionately high incidence of motor vehicle accidents involving minors." MCA 61-5-131

Education on distracted driving.

(1) The department, in consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, shall encourage schools providing traffic education to include in their traffic education curriculum information regarding the dangers of physical and cognitive distractions while driving.

(2) To reduce the risks for novice drivers, the department shall include in its publications intended for novice drivers information concerning the dangers of physical and cognitive distractions while driving, including but not limited to mental inattentiveness because of stress, fatigue, heightened emotion, conversation with passengers, stereo or climate control adjustment, food and drink, use of electronic devices, and personal grooming. MCA 61-5-135

Montana Teen Fatal and Serious Injury Crash Driver age 14 - 18

200 196 166 161 141 100 94 107 104 91

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

* Source: Montana Department of Transportation state and county young driver data: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml
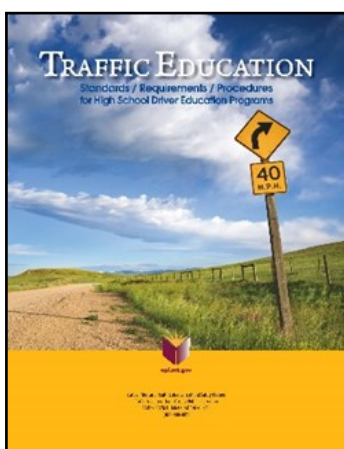
GDL—THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1. **Traffic Education Learner License (TELL)** – Log **50** hours of **supervised** practice with **10** hours at night for a minimum of **6** months, and no alcohol, drug or traffic citations.

2. **GDL Restricted License** – Allows **solo driving**; one-year restrictions include curfew, limiting passengers, and no alcohol, drug or traffic citations.

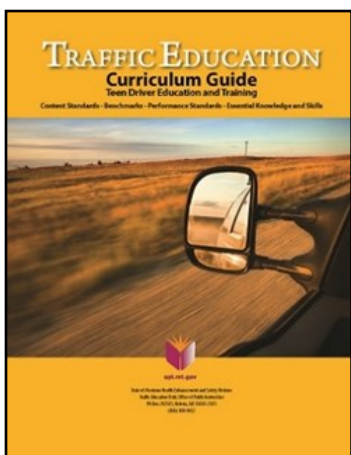3. **Full Driver License** – After **one year** on the restricted license.

Download the GDL Parents Fact Sheet and Teen Driver Log:
http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd.

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov

TRAFFIC EDUCATION:
Standards, Requirements &
Procedures for High School
Driver Education Programs

TRAFFIC EDUCATION:
Curriculum Guide—Teen
Driver Education and Training

Download these essential documents at the OPI's web site or request a printed copy from the Traffic Education Office.

Adapted Illustrated Montana Driver Manual—2016

The *Adapted Illustrated Montana Driver Manual* has been revised and re-published by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) with help from a teacher review committee, safety experts, and support from the Montana Department of Justice—Motor Vehicle Division, and the Montana Department of Transportation.

The *Adapted Illustrated Montana Driver Manual* is designed to help new driver license applicants understand and remember information that is required to get and keep a Montana driver license. It is also intended to help new drivers understand and respect traffic laws and safety rules.
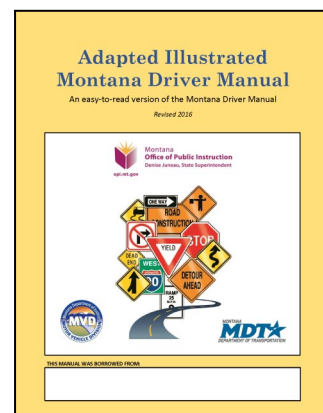
The 2016 version of the *Adapted Illustrated Montana Driver Manual* is based on the 2015 Montana Driver Manual published and distributed by the Motor Vehicle Division of the Montana Department of Justice. The Adapted Manual is organized and presented in a clear and easy-to-read format with graphics and images. The manual can be read online and downloaded as a pdf at the OPI's website.

This April, all attendees at the Montana Traffic Education Conference in Billings received one copy and many also took a copy for their school library. Teachers and districts who have not received a copy can contact the Traffic Education Office and request one copy free of charge.
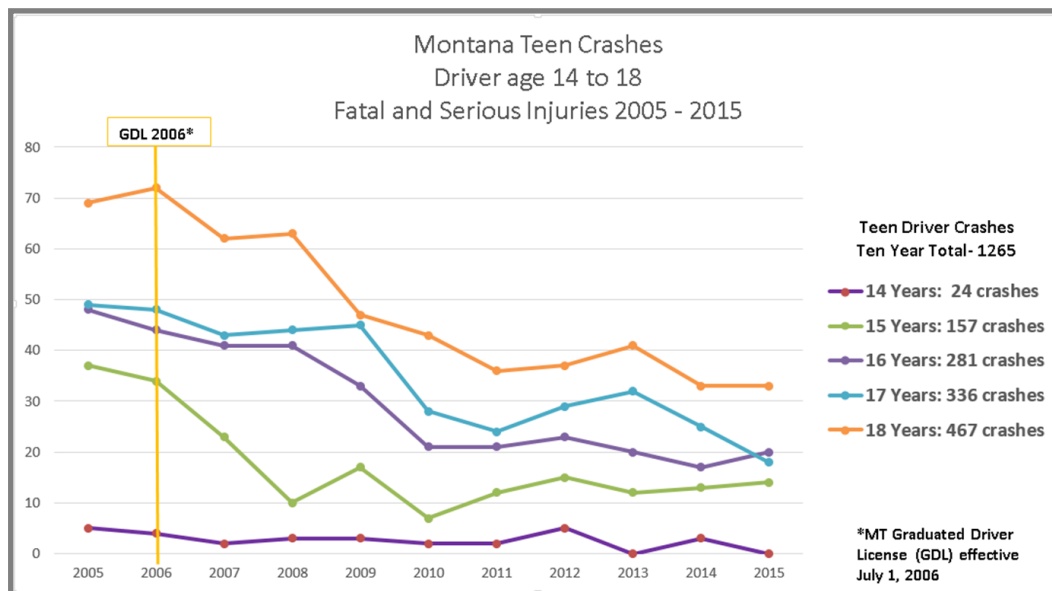
Multiple or individual printed copies can be ordered for $20 per copy (shipping and handling included) from Print & Mail Services. Call (406) 444-1494 or email at jmackay@mt.gov.

The OPI is distributing copies to Montana public libraries, public school special education programs, and Job Corps offices. The Montana Talking Book Library is also recording the manual this year. The OPI will send out an email to subscribers of the Traffic Education e-news when the audio version is available.

Visit the OPI website or call the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432.

Teen crashes decline since Montana adopts GDL . . .

Montana Teen Crashes
Driver age 14 to 18
Fatal and Serious Injuries 2005 - 2015

GDL 2006*

Teen Driver Crashes
Ten Year Total- 1265

- 14 Years: 24 crashes
- 15 Years: 157 crashes
- 16 Years: 281 crashes
- 17 Years: 336 crashes
- 18 Years: 467 crashes

*MT Graduated Driver License (GDL) effective July 1, 2006

Source: Montana Department of Transportation state and county young driver data:
http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml

Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS)

What's new in TEDRS? A new STUDENT SEARCH tool was added to enable users to search for driver education students by name. You can find the Student Search feature under the Reports tab. Certificates of Completion can be printed here, too.

The Office of Public Instruction's **Traffic Education and Data Reporting System** (TEDRS) is used by Montana school districts to enter district applications, student lists, and year-end reports online. Superintendents, principals, district staff, and instructors are authorized to use TEDRS to manage their traffic education reporting and submit the required forms to the OPI and the Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice.

TO GET THE MOST OUT OF TEDRS:

- Enable popups in your browser if you are not using Internet Explorer. When you are using Firefox, Chrome or Safari, you will need to enable "popups" to view and print pdf versions of TEDRS forms.

- Please do not send OPI a printed copy of forms filled out in TEDRS.

- Update your password every 60 days. Go to the log in screen, click on "Forgot my password" and follow the instructions. If your email address has changed, let us know. Your username and email address are linked together.

- Make sure you fully complete the TE03/04 Student List form. It isn't complete and submitted to the OPI until the steps at the top of the form turn from red to green.

The Traffic Education Office provides ongoing training and troubleshooting, so please call or e-mail us for assistance. Call: (406) 444-4432 or email: pborneman@mt.gov.

What's New with the CDTP?

Every year, about 125 school districts participate in the **Cooperative Driver Testing Program** (CDTP), reducing the number of teen drivers applying for learner licenses at driver exam stations across the state. So it's not surprising that attendees of the annual traffic education conference appreciate the updates given by staff of the Driver Services Bureau (DSB), Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice. The DSB consists of Michele Snowberger, Bureau Chief; Tammy Stefanik, Deputy Bureau Chief; Patrick McJannet, Deputy Bureau Chief; four regional managers; and 70 employees in Montana.

Along with a new driver license design, appointment scheduling for all offices, and updated automated knowledge testing, the DSB rolled out the new three-page driver license application. One of the reasons it is longer is to include voter registration for drivers starting at age 17 to be in compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Driver license applications are now two sheets of heavy yellow paper that should not be stapled, but can be paper clipped. Drivers' names must be written on both sheets. The application is complete when the drivers' legal names, test scores, permits issued, and vision screenings are properly recorded with the correct identification documents. *Teachers should get the new forms at your district's closest Driver Exam Station.*

To review CDTP requirements and procedures, visit the Traffic Education webpage (http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd), click on **Teaching Traffic Education,** scroll down to the CDTP section and download the *CDTP Manual* or *Quick Reference Guide*.

Questions about CDTP? Contact the Regional Manager in your area or Tammy Stefanik at email tstefanik@mt.gov or 406-444-1779.

CUT OUT & POST
THIS HANDY LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES, DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

TRAFFIC EDUCATION FORMS
PLEASE USE TEDRS

TE01 Program Application
Due August 1 for fall programs or before program begins.

TE03 Certification & TE04 Student List Enter and submit forms to the OPI using TEDRS at beginning and completion of each course.

TE06 Year-End Report
Due before July 10 for annual Traffic Education reimbursement payment in August for courses ending by June 30.

YOUR TE PROGRAM TEAM
We are here to help …

OPI Traffic Education
http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/

FRAN PENNER-RAY
(406) 444-4396
fpenner-ray@mt.gov

PATTI BORNEMAN
(406) 444-4432
pborneman@mt.gov

DOJ/Motor Vehicle Division
https://dojmt.gov/driving/

TAMMY STEFANIK
(406) 444-1779
tstefanik@mt.gov

Montana State University-Northern at Havre
http://www.msun.edu/distance

RANDY BACHMEIER
(800) 662-6132 x3730
rbachmeier@msu.edu

Montana Traffic Education Association
http://www.MTEAonline.org

Always buckle up …
we want to see YOU again

Teens with Special Needs and Driving

Parents of teens with special needs or challenges that may affect their ability to drive should know they are not alone. In one study, two-thirds of 15- to 18-year-olds with a high-functioning autism spectrum disorder, who are old enough to drive in their state, are currently driving or plan to drive.*

Many teens with disabilities can learn to drive safely, but not all. Parents need to decide whether their teen is ready to pursue licensing, and if so, will assume legal liability for their teen's driving and will provide the required driving practice of at least 50 hours in six months or longer. Before allowing their child to apply for a learner license, parents should discuss with the teen's doctor any medical or physical issues that may prevent their teen from driving safely and responsibly.

The goal is to accommodate all students who want to take traffic education while maintaining the highest standards of safety in collaboration with the family, school staff, and medical team. The intersection of a teen's Individual Education Plan with traffic education requirements and safety can be done when all parties work together.

Read the *Guide to Accommodating Students with Disabilities in Driver Education:* http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/DriverEd/AccomodatingDisabilities.pdf.

* Research from Teen Driver Source, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Montana Traffic Education Association

A great resource for teachers, administrators and traffic safety professionals and partners.

The OPI Traffic Education Office partners with MTEA throughout the year to offer professional development opportunities for Montana's traffic educators.

- Join us at the annual spring conference in April 2017 in Great Falls. First-time attendees can put their names in a drawing for one of three $150 David Huff Memorial Scholarships.

- Become a member or recruit a new member.

- Visit MTEAOnline.org to read MTEA News.

MTEA is on Facebook! Search for "Montana Traffic Education Association" - like and share!

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR TRAFFIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **TE01 DISTRICT APPLICATIONS DUE BEFORE PROGRAM BEGINS:** Classes ending by June 30, 2016, submit 2016 TE01 District Application. Summer 2016 classes that end after July 1, submit 2017 TE01 District Application.

- **TE03/04 STUDENT LISTS:** Enter and submit using TEDRS* at **beginning and completion** of each course.

- **TE06 YEAR-END REPORT DUE BEFORE JULY 10** to receive your reimbursement in August for traffic education programs ending by June 30. **The estimated reimbursement is approximately $90 per pupil.**

* Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS) - If you are **not** currently using TEDRS, call (406) 444-4432.